

INCEPTION REPORT

NAME : FIRKAH BINTI JENAL

COUNTRY : MALAYSIA

**COURSES :INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY IN COMMUNITY
ACTIVITY**

NO : (J1100607)

1. General Information

- 1) **Name of Country** : Malaysia
- 2) **Area** : 329,750 (sq. km)
- 3) **Life expectancy** : Male - 71.7 Female - 76.6 (2010)
- 4) **Infant Mortality rate** : 6.4 /1000 death (2008)
- 5) **Maternal Mortality rate** : 0.3 / 1000 death (2008)
- 6) **Literacy rate** : (2009)
Total: 95% (all 15 yrs and above)
Male: 95% total, 98% 15-24 yrs
Female: 95% total, 98% 15-24 yrs
- 7) **Population** : 28.25 million persons (2010)

- a. **By district** :

Table : Distribution Of Population And Sex Ratio By Sex And State, 2010

State	Male	Female
MALAYSIA	14,112,667	13,453,154
Johor	1,705,605	1,527,829
Kedah	953,635	936,463
Kelantan	730,159	729,835
Melaka	397,932	390,774
Negeri Sembilan	515,293	481,778
Pahang	759,587	683,778
Perak	1,138,018	1,120,410
Perlis	111,709	115,316
Pulau Pinang	761,973	758,170
Sabah	1,606,890	1,513,150

Sarawak	1,239,130	1,180,879
Selangor	2,777,058	2,634,266
Terengganu	515,745	500,031
W.P. KL	824,600	802,572
W.P. Labuan	43,452	41,820
W.P. Putrajaya	31,881	36,083

b. Age :

Table : Population (' 000) by Age Group

Year	Total	0 - 14	15 - 64	65 +
2000	23,494.9	8,003.1	14,560.0	931.8
2001	24,012.9	8,112.4	14,940.2	960.3
2002	24, 526.5	8,214.2	15,318.5	993.9
2003	25,048.3	8,313.7	15,702.4	1,032.2
2004	25,580.9	8,415.7	16,090.8	1,074.4
2005	26,127.7	8,525.3	16,483.0	1,119.4
2006	27,173.6	8,632.0	16,858.6	1,149.6
2007	26,640	8,748.6	17,237.9	1,187.0
2008	27,728.7	8,876.2	17,620.2	1,232.3
2009	28,306.7	9,014.7	18,005.7	1,286.2

c. Income level : (2008)

According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia, more than half of the Malaysian households earn a monthly income of less than RM3,000. Out of 5.8 million households in the country surveyed, 8.6% earns an income of below RM1,000, 29.4% earns in between of RM1,000 and RM2,000, and 19.8% brings home income in the range of RM2,001 and RM3,000.

Hence the total of those earning an income of RM3,000 or less is about 3.4 million, equivalent to close to 60%. The remaining of the households earn between RM3,001 and RM4,000 (12.9%), RM4,001 and RM5,000 (8.6%), RM5,001 and RM10,000 (15.8%), and above RM10,000 (4.9%).

Table of income tabulation:

Income range	Percentage (%)
below RM1,000	8.6%
RM1,000 to RM2,000	29.4%
RM2,001 to RM3,000	19.8%
RM3,001 to RM4,000	12.9%
RM4,001 to RM5,000	8.6%
RM5,001 to RM10,000	15.8%
above RM10,000	4.9%

8) Education System : Data on 2011

Primary School : 7709

Secondary School : 2271

Public University : 20

Polytechnic : 28

College Community : 64

9) Health System :

Hospital beds > per 1,000 people = 1.9 per 1,000 people

Government Hospital : 146

Private hospital : 122

10) Major Industry :

Sector	Year – 2009 (' 000)
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	1,349.6
Fishing	121.5
Mining and Quarrying	62.7
Manufacturing	1,807.1
Construction	1,015.9
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	58.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles,	1,831.8

Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods	
Hotels and Restaurants	800.5
Transport, Storage and Communications	592.0
Financial Intermediation	271.5
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	601.9
Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security	813.8
Education	731.4
Health and Social Work	271.7
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	303.3
Private Households With Employed Person	262.5
Extra-Territorial Organisations and Bodies	1.7

11) Employment rate ('000)

Total Employment	: 10,897.3
Unemployment	:: 418.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	: 3.7
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	: 62.9

2. Intellectual Disabilities

1) Law concerned with person with Intellectual Disabilities

At present there is no comprehensive legislation that covers people with disabilities. In general, the “Persons with Disabilities Act 2002” is a specific piece of legislation for disabled people in Malaysia to be protected and advocated. Constitutionally, a disabled person may claim his/her rights under Article 8 of the Federal Constitution that guarantees equality to all persons unless conditions expressly authorized by the constitution. The act also covers any discrimination against a person simply on the grounds of disability in the areas of employment, education, housing, transportation, business undertakings, sports, recreational activities, access to public places, access to public facilities and services.

2) Financial Assistance for persons with Intellectual Disabilities

In 2011, Government will allocated 1.2 billion to carry out various welfare and community programmes as follows:

- I.** Welfare assistance for senior citizen with an allocation of RM 166 million.
- II.** Children assistance programme with an allocation of RM 121 million to enable them to receive quality childcare and early education.
- III.** Assistance programme to benefit disabled 8000 disabled individuals with an allocation RM 218 million
- IV.** Excise duty exemption be increase from 50% to 100% on national vehicles purchased by disabled
- V.** Construction of an intervention centre for the homeless by providing employment opportunities, housing facilities and counseling.

To help the disabled people to be self-reliant in the society, the Department of Social Welfare has provided economic assistance by purchasing items which they manufacture, and various types of activities have been devised to respond to their needs in ways that facilitate their participation in the society. Allowances for people with special disabilities are provided to help disabled be economically self-reliant. Another form of help to a family with a disabled child is the deduction of income tax. Additionally, Malaysian government has also reduced the tax for those employers with disabled employee. The fare is for all public transport facilities in the country i.e. bus, train and plane is reduced by 50% (Department of Social Welfare, 2005). In cases where transport is needed i.e. wheelchair or three-wheel motor-cycle or car, the department also provide the facility (a subsidy price) to be purchased. Another form of subsidy by the department is providing support for disabled adult who are in need to purchase a house. Kuala Lumpur City Hall has given a special price for disabled adult to buy a low cost house and private flat in Kuala Lumpur city.

3) Services including CBR available for persons with Intellectual Disabilities

The majority of services in this country have adopted models of from industrialized countries. While aspects of these models may be applicable locally, they are by and large not suitable to meet the vast needs of the disabled. The figure shows the provision of services by various service providers in the country. Services for the

disabled are currently fragmented, hospital based, inadequate and do not appear to be a priority in medical development locally. Parents face many hindrances from service providers. Children with disability are often managed by a number of different departments with little integration. Services are better at assessment than rehabilitation. The chronic care for these children fatigues service providers and parents. There is a prevailing sense of hopelessness. Most services do not adequately address the emotional burden of the family. Hence there is a high "dropout" rate in the utilization of rehabilitative services by parents.

The community-based rehabilitation (CBR) in Malaysia is under the umbrella of the Department of Social Welfare. Efforts to integrate the disabled into the mainstream activities of society were intensified through the CBR program, which involved their families and communities and supported by relevant agencies such as health, education and social welfare. CBR programs have proven to be cost effective and an effective alternative to institutional rehabilitation of people with disabilities. In this regard, additional CBR centers will be established during the Ninth Malaysia Plan period. These CBR centers will be developed as a one-stop service centre to provide a more comprehensive service for people with disabilities. For an overview of the CBR in Malaysia, a survey was done in the state of Kelantan. To date, there are 26 CBR centers established and every district has not less than 2 centers. The number of disabled people enrolled in this program is 459. The study shows that every district has their own CBR centers supervised by the social workers from Department of Social Welfare. The centers accepted any kind of disabilities regardless of their sexes and age. The educational programs provided at these institutions are reading, writing, social skills, language development, career guidance, vocational training, religious and recreational activities.

Number of Community-based Rehabilitation Centers and Trainees 2006 District

CBR Centers	Number	Trainees/Students
Kota Bharu	3	48
Pasir Puteh	4	47
Jeli	2	35
Gua Musang	2	63
Machang	2	15
Bachok	2	44

Tanah Merah	3	36
Kuala Krai	1	5
Pasir Mas	1	24
Tumpat	6	142
Total	26	459

Other than these institutions, the Department of Social Welfare has also set up institutions for disabled senior citizens such as „*Rumah Orang Tua Melarat*“ (Old Folks Home) „*Rumah Bina Diri*“ (Self-awareness Home). The objective is to protect the disabled senior citizens so that they can live in a protected and safe environment. Like other CBR, these institutions also provide facilities such as counseling, education, vocation, religious educational and recreational activities.

4) Number of services and those beneficiaries in each district

Name of Institution	No. of Institutions
State Home for Disabled ` the institution was designated for the care and training of mentally handicapped people. - the institution provided care for all categories of mentally handicapped people with low to average functioning abilities.	7
Sheltered Workshop - The institutions are designed to give people with disabilities opportunities leading to dignity, self worth and socialization amongst their peers. These workshops provide encouragement, supervision and jobs that PWD will find exciting and challenging, the pride of accomplishing meaningful work, compatible peers and the all-important salary.	12
Industrial Training and Rehabilitation The main purpose is to provide services for physically disabled people with vocational training and medical rehabilitation. This institution is appropriate for the disabled adult whereby the admission requirement is only for those between 18 – 40 years old. They must also be self-independent and able to benefit from the training	1
Community-based Rehabilitation the services to be provided are be disability screening and detection, referral services, dissemination of information on disabilities, vocational training and job placement, registration of people with disabilities and advocacy	313

5) Outline of Organization

1) Background, vision, strategy

Background

The National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM) is a non-profit, non-governmental welfare organisation which was formed in 1986 by a group of parents and professionals. It was registered on 3rd March 1987, as a national voluntary charitable organisation and aims at providing education, help, care and protection for people with autism and their family members. Currently, NASOM has established 14 Early Intervention Programmes and 3 Vocational Programmes for people inflicted with autism in Malaysia.

Our Vision

To become an efficient and effective organisation that provides services, strength and sanctuary for people with autism.

Our Mission

To advocate for the rights of people with autism and in doing so provide opportunities for them to learn and lead a productive and fulfilling life.

Our Objectives

- To identify and promote the treatment, education, welfare and acceptance of people with autism
- To watch over and protect the people with autism
- To provide assistance and advice to families of people with autism
- To be a useful resource in the study, research and development of methodologies, therapies and treatment of autism and related disorders
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2) Major programs, covered areas, covered population number beneficiaries

Our core objective is to offer life-long services to people with autism through various services and programmes. These services and programmes are results oriented and emphasis is on the

acquisition of skills and changes in behaviour.

Our services and programmes are classified as follows:-

- Assessment and diagnosis
- Early intervention
- Vocational training

Assessment and diagnosis

NASOM - Kiwanis PJ Autism One-Stop Centre

NASOM runs a One-Stop Service Centre, the NASOM - Kiwanis PJ Autism One-Stop Centre. The One Stop Centre offers the following services:

- Psychological screening and assessment for children at risk or with developmental delay
- Social classes
- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Sensory Integration Therapy
- Play Therapy
- Children and teen counselling

It also encompasses an autism specific resource centre complete with a well stocked library, audio visual equipments, computers and a place for support groups to meet.

Early Intervention Programme

NASOM currently operates 14 autism intervention centres throughout the country, catering to the needs of children up to the age of 13. At these centres, the children are taught self help skills, elementary academic and learning skills and given educational therapy to help them cope and overcome their inherent deficits and disorders.

On entry to the programme, the child is given an evaluation and assessment test. For children below 5 years of age or with severe disorder, one-to-one intervention will be provided.

Emphasis will also be placed on independent living skills, effective communication and social

skills.

Transition Programme

This is a programme specially designed for children with autism disorders to prepare them for formal school. They are taught basic academic skills, group learning and other necessary skills needed in the classroom. Parents are also trained and supported by staff to maintain the child's programme at home. Children who have successfully completed the transition programme are enrolled into mainstream schools.

Mainstreaming Programme

In 2005, NASOM started a pilot programme to integrate children into mainstream schools. This programme is fully managed and financed by NASOM, and it provides full support for the children in and after school. The students have shown excellent progress and the success of this unique model of inclusion has drawn much acclaim and is being formally adopted by the Ministry of Education. At present, we have children placed in six mainstream schools in the Klang Valley and Butterworth.

Pre-Vocational Programme

Children above 14 years old who are not enrolled in formal school will be placed in a vocational training programme. Skills enhanced include basic independent living skills, as well as social and trade skills.

To provide a more holistic educational experience, children at NASOM are also given extra-curricular activities and they include activities such as:-

- Swimming
- Horse-riding
- Physical workout
- Bowling

Vocational Programme

The NASOM Autistic Teens and Adult Service Centre has 3 centres modelled to equip our students with skills in baking, food preparation, laundry, housekeeping services, sewing, handicraft and data entry services. The centres are also sheltered workshop facilities for the service users to work in contract packing and card making. Besides training the service users in work skills, they are also taught:

Self care skills

- *Personal hygiene, grooming, health and domestic skills*

Social skills

- *Emotional awareness, social functioning and relationship*

Recreation activities

- *Indoor and outdoor activities, art and craft*

Work experience

- *Pre-work skills programme, work placement internal and external*

Residential Programme

The NASOM Group Homes provide a residential programme for our service users. At the NASOM Group Homes, our service users are taught the skills of living in a community.

CENTRES

NASOM provides its services in 19 centres throughout Malaysia. They centres are located at:-

- Alor Setar
- Bandar Puteri, Klang
- Butterworth
- Ipoh
- Jalan Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur
- Jalan Kuchai Lama, Kuala Lumpur
- Jalan Mewah, Petaling Jaya
- Jalan Pahang, Kuala Lumpur
- Kota Bahru
- Kuantan
- Malacca
- Miri
- Muar
- Penang

- Seremban
- Segamat
- Setia Avenue, Shah Alam
- Teluk Pulai, Klang
- Titiwangsa, Kuala Lumpur

3) Position and Duty

My position in NASOM is as a coordinator for one of three centre for vocational programme. For my centre it is for people with autism in average age 14 and above that offered for Autistic Teens and Adult Service. My duty as coordinator is

- i. To manage centre to be work as a plan and conducts home and school visit as needed.
- ii. Design educational programmes and monitor the implementation of the adolescent and adult services of the centre.
- iii. Designs and implement training programmes for teachers as needed
- iv. Monitors and trains teacher in designing and implementation of intervention programmes at the vocational programmes.

<p>6) Community development program which include Intellectual Disability issues as one of activities</p>
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Community development is the basic policy formulated since independence to the present day, and it is stressed that people should take the opportunities provided by the state to participate in the government sponsored imitative. One of example Community development program which include Intellectual Disability issues as one of activities is made by Asia Community Service. Asia Community Service was established in October 1996, as a non-profit organisation with the vision of empowering people with special needs towards a more meaningful and fulfilling life. The focus however is targeted towards young children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

In April 1997, Asia Community Service started its first project, i.e. the First Step Centre, which provides early intervention programmes and services to babies, toddlers and preschool children with learning difficulties and developmental delays

between the ages of 0 to 6 years. The programme aims to stimulate all areas of a child's development, such as gross and fine motor skills, cognitive, social and communication skills, conducted in individual one to one teaching sessions as well as small group activities. Activities carried out include infant massage, computer access, physical activities, art camp; craft, dough play, imaginative and pretend play, story-telling, drama, sand and water play, singing and music. In May 2009, this early intervention service expanded onto the mainland in Seberang Jaya. This expansion is made possible in partnership with BOLD Association for Children with Special Needs Penang.

In February 2000, Asia Community Service launched a small workplace called Stepping Stone Centre in Balik Pulau, a rural district of Penang for the adults with intellectual disabilities. The main thrust of the Stepping Stone Centre is to support people with intellectual disabilities to be more economically independent through job opportunities. There are currently 24 members working in various work stations here at Stepping Stone, i.e. bakery, hand weaving, soap and paper making, batik painting and recycling. Members are exposed to the different work types for the initial 3 months, which is considered the training period. They will then be encouraged to make a choice depending on their interest and preference.

7) Situations of Persons With Disabilities

1) Dignosis

Current internationally accepted diagnostic criteria for the condition of intellectual disability are more explicit. For example, the Fourth Edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV), which is the internationally used manual in relation to diagnosis of mental impairments, states the diagnostic criteria are:

- I. Significant sub-average intellectual functioning: an IQ of approximately 70 or below on an individually administered IQ test (for infant a clinical judgment of significantly sub-average intellectual functioning).

- II. Concurrent deficits or impairments in present adaptive functioning (i.e. the person's effectiveness in meeting the standards expected for his or her age by his or her cultural group) in at least two of the following areas: communication, self-care, home living, social/interpersonal skills, use of community resources, self-direction, functional academic skills, work, leisure, health and safety.
- III. The onset is before age 18.

These DSM-IV diagnostic criteria may be useful in arguing before a court that a person has an intellectual disability, but eligibility for intellectual disability services, which are provided or funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS), is determined by the criteria set out in the Disability Act.

2) Education

In Malaysia, even though the government's educational focus was providing facilities for the majority of mainstream children, the government does recognize that children with disabilities have a right to attend formal school. Thus, the Education Act 1961 also stated that Ministry of Education is responsible for guidelines for all or any of the following matters on special education. The Act acknowledged that children with disabilities should receive free but not compulsory primary education.

There are two educational programmes available for these children :

Integrated Programmes

Integrated special education classes located mainstream schools are directly under the administrative control of the State Education Departments or Technical Education Department, but are subjected to same policies and practices and advocated in the 1996 Education Act and 1997 Education (Special Education) Regulations.

Inclusive Programme

Inclusive education in Malaysia is an extension of the current practice of integration which involves children with special need from segregated educational settings (special schools) to mainstream schools' environment, in line with the least restrictive environment' principle. At primary level not many children with learning disabilities are included. The reason is that, at this level their main educational priorities are

acquisition of basic skills needed to access the national curriculum, that inclusion of self help skills as well as the acquisition of basic communication skills.

3) Vocational Training

The purpose of Vocational Training is to actualize a curriculum of work skills training in a centre-based setting. Every trainee has an Individualized Training Program which takes into account the person's strengths and interests, which are then matched to the best possible career route. Some example vocational training is focusing on their work skills for sheltered workshop such as bakery, art & craft, packaging, Laundry and serving. Meantime, they would also be receiving on-the-job training at the Open Employment Training Unit.

4) Support Organizations

i. Governmental agencies

In Malaysia, there are four main agencies involved in the services for the ID.

The agencies and the services provided are as follows:-

a. Ministry Of Health

- i. Medical examination
- ii. Early valuation
- iii. Occupational therapy
- iv. Physiotherapy
- v. Speech therapy
- vi. Follow up treatment
- vii. Dietitian
- viii. Psychology treatment

b. Social Welfare Department (SWD)

- i. Registration for the disabled
- ii. Providing identification card, artificial aids, special allowance
- iii. Community Based Rehabilitation
- iv. Admission to Rehabilitation Institution
- v. Vocational Training
- vi. Counseling and advisory services
- vii. Job Placement

c. Ministry Of Education

- i. Early education
- ii. Integrated Schools
- iii. Special Schools
- iv. Vocational Schools

d. Labour Department

- i. Carry out promotion programmes for job placement in private sector
- ii. Job placement
- iii. Enforcement of Labour Act 1955

ii. NGOs

The NGO's too play an active role assisting the government for the disabled.

The services includes:-

- i. Establishment for Day Care and Training Centers
- ii. Community Based Rehabilitation
- iii. Early Intervention Programmers
- iv. Multi disciplinary activities at community level
- v. Early education and social skills programmers
- vi. Advisory and support services through website
- vii. Parents support group
- viii. Sign language and Braille classes
- ix. Counseling
- Social Clubs
- xi. Resource Centers
- xii. Referral Services

<p>8) The issues to solve to conduct effective support for person with intellectual Disabilities</p>

The disability rate among adult and elderly people tends to be high due to a high incidence of health related problems. In Malaysia, almost 13,515 adults (male = 8,402 and female = 5,113) live with a physical, sensory, intellectual or mental health disability. Therefore, issues and challenges in providing education need to be reviewed so that certain measures can be taken into consideration in assessing the needs of disabled adults in Malaysia.